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'There must be a poetry of sound that none of us knows...' Early British documentary film and the prefiguring of musique concrète

Original Citation

Cox, Geoffrey (2016) 'There must be a poetry of sound that none of us knows...' Early British documentary film and the prefiguring of musique concrète. In: Alternative Histories of Electronic Music Conference, 14-16 Apr 2016, The Science Museum Research Centre, Queen's Gate, London. (Unpublished)

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There must be a poetry of sound which none of us knows...Meanings in footsteps, voices in trees, and woods of the day and night everywhere. There must be massed choruses of sound in the factory and in the street and among all men alive... I know not the first thing about them, though I have, like everybody else shut my eyes...and sat for hours trying to make something of the door-bangings and footfalls and crazy oddments of conversation that broke the plush darkness of a London night. We are the tyros, all of us, with a new world opening up on the horizon. I see no reason why anyone at the moment should envy Columbus. (Grierson, 1930)